

Bridging the Gap between Sexual Offender Treatment and Management

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Most treatment providers do their best to maintain contact with parole officers (PO's), or other support agencies. However, a monthly report, and an occasional phone call to address specific concerns, is an excellent start, but it is just that; it's only the start. In order to provide PO's, with the tools they need to present a current, and accurate picture of the client's progress, (and therefore improve legal decision making), providers must make themselves accessible, and receptive to input, from PO's and/or other support agencies. Additionally, it is necessary to collaborate with both PO's, and/or other support agencies, as well as the client's themselves prior to developing treatment goals and objectives that will result in the reduction of future victims. Treatment providers see one facet of the client, and PO's see another. The convergence of both views brings about a comprehensive and accurate view of who the client is today with regards to lifestyle, thinking, client decision making, and overall behaviors, that will in the long run, impact public safety. In this workshop, the presenter will describe underused techniques as well as, creative; think out side of the box techniques that are effective in bridging the gap between providers, PO's , and other community agencies. This effective program was designed to accomplish the following goals: 1) Promote collaboration between PO's, and/other support agencies, and treatment providers in order to produce effective, comprehensive relationships. 2) Promote client's understanding of the importance of collaboration, between treatment, and management (probation), in order to facilitate buy in, transparency of client lifestyles, behaviors, and thinking. 3) To facilitate a reduction in inaccurate, unsafe decision making based on skewed, single dimensional knowledge of the client. Additionally, as clients progress in their treatment, and mature in their commitments to treatment, clients will begin to develop a sense of investment and ultimately adhere to conditions of probation. Consequently, clients will maintain the rules of probation and therefore greatly contribute to public safety.

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Topics discussed will include:

- **Treatment Goal Setting**
- **Monthly meetings with Parole Officers**
- **Attending as Needed Meetings with Other Providers**
- **Parole Officer's Staffing Meetings**
- **Lock In Activities (Halloween)**
- **Collaboration Visibility**
- **Connecting with polygraphists and/or Parole Officers**
- **Involving Spouses Prior to Completion of Treatment or earlier**
- **Using Technology to Stay Connected to Parole Officer and/or Support Agencies**

Participants will learn how to begin the process by utilizing a simplistic assessment tool that will help them to assess program weaknesses , and determine which techniques will be most useful to strengthen those deficient areas. Examples of previous deficient programs will be shared, along with program improvement techniques (as listed above), that have successfully earned the appreciation and contract of a state agency. The workshop will also include a description of a post assessment tool that will assist the provider in ensuring that the suggested techniques that have been effective.